

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 258
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Martha Ingram upon her meritorious public service as Chairperson of the Tennessee Bicentennial Commission.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given generously of themselves, their time and their talents to promote and perpetuate a broader understanding of the proud history of our great state; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ingram has most assuredly distinguished herself as a public servant of the highest order by means of her excellent tenure as Chairperson of the Tennessee Bicentennial Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingram was appointed to this important position by Governor Ned McWherter who charged her with the responsibility of conducting Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration with class and distinction; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingram most certainly complied with Governor McWherter's directive in skillfully planning and bringing to fruition a statewide celebration which was representative of Tennessee's illustrious history and which embraced the arts as an essential component of a well-rounded, productive citizenry; and

WHEREAS, she also adroitly engineered a comprehensive Bicentennial celebration that was centered around the State Capitol, yet was also inclusive of local events; and

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WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingram astutely developed the Bicentennial Arts and Entertainment Festival, which brought professional performing artists and rich and diverse talent from all regions of the state together in May 1996 to fulfill the goal of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center as the center of performing arts in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as the impetus behind this the first ever statewide arts festival, she provided inspired leadership in profiling and encouraging the growth and prosperity of the arts through the presentation of state and national performers; and

WHEREAS, while her primary interest was the development of the arts festival, Mrs. Ingram also strongly and eloquently supported a Tennessee Bicentennial celebration that featured ideas and cultures to appeal to the diverse population of the state; and

WHEREAS, she was very successful in achieving this worthy goal, as under her adept tutelage the Bicentennial Commission created an outstanding Bicentennial celebration that will be fondly remembered by Tennesseans for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her outstanding leadership, Mrs. Ingram was instrumental in securing private funds to underwrite Bicentennial activities, and she selflessly donated countless hours of her personal time to meetings and planning for Bicentennial events; and

WHEREAS, throughout her distinguished tenure as Chair, she made Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration the top priority of her very busy life, and she continued to give unstintingly of herself, even when personal and business conflicts arose; and

WHEREAS, overall, Martha Ingram brought to the commission enthusiasm, energy, élan, and a good business sense coupled with an emphasis on sound financial management; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ingram serves with integrity and acumen as Chairman of Ingram Industries, Inc. and serves with distinction on the board of Baxter International, First American Corporation and Weyerhaeuser Company; and

WHEREAS, no novice to public service, she is a valuable member of the advisory board of INROADS/Nashville and a board member of Ashley Hall, Vassar College and Harpeth Hall School; and

WHEREAS, a remarkable lady who realizes that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Mrs. Ingram is a former board member of the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, has served on the boards of the United Way of Nashville, and Middle Tennessee and was chair of the United Way's Alexis de Tocqueville Society; and

WHEREAS, "a patron of the arts" in the truest and most positive sense of the term, she has chaired the Nashville Symphony board, as a founder of the Tennessee Repertory Theater and serves on the board of Nashville Ballet, Nashville Opera and Nashville Institute for the Arts, as well as the Nashville Symphony and Tennessee Repertory Theater; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ingram was the guiding force behind the creation of the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and served astutely as a board member for fifteen years; she is also a past member of the advisory board for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her peerless philanthropy, magnanimous public service and stalwart support of the arts, this exemplary lady has received awards literally too numerous to mention; and

WHEREAS, Martha R. Ingram has played an instrumental role in making Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration a most memorable and joyous event, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Martha Ingram upon her meritorious public service as Chairperson of the Tennessee Bicentennial Commission; salute her dedication to excellence in all her endeavors; and commend her for living the examined life with liberality and courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.